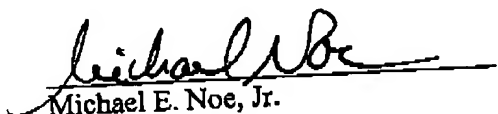


REMARKS

Applicant certainly appreciates the allowance of Claims 20 - 24 and the suggestions offered by the Examiner to overcome the objections to Claims 2, 3, 5, 9 - 13, and 19. Accordingly, the language of canceled Claim 3 was added to Claim 1 to put Claim 1 and its dependent claims in condition for allowance. Also, Claim 9 was rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, Claim 9 and its dependent claims are now allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No fee for an extension of time or other fees are believed to be required. However, in the event that an extension of time is required, please charge that extension fee and any other required fees to **Hitachi Global Storage Technologies' Deposit Account Number 50-2587**.

Respectfully submitted,



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